



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 1999

CONTACT: Steven Gold, Deputy City Attorney, Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit,
(619) 236-6508

UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR SENTENCED TO MORE THAN ONE YEAR IN CUSTODY AND ORDERED TO PAY OVER \$58,000 IN RESTITUTION

Ngungutau Maake, a San Diego man who advertised to do block, brick, and concrete work was sentenced to 380 days in custody after pleading guilty to acting as a contractor without a license, and other charges. Maake, who had been previously prosecuted by the City Attorney for unlicensed contracting, was also ordered by Superior Court Judge Robert F. O'Neil to pay \$58,750 in restitution to eleven victims, and further ordered to pay restitution to victims who come forward within the next six months with claims against Maake.

Many victims paid Maake thousands of dollars, never having their job completed. In some cases, Maake took money, and never did any work. Some San Diegans were left with partially constructed block walls, ready to tumble down since they were not filled with any concrete.

Maake used several names, including Tau Maake and Mark Maake. The public is urged to not confuse this defendant with a different Mark Maake, who is Ngungutau's brother, and a contractor in good-standing with the Contractor's State License Board.

"Consumers must have confidence to hire contractors without fear of getting ripped off," said San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn, whose office prosecuted the case. "For the public's protection, California law requires a contractor's license for those engaged in the type of work offered by Maake. Those who choose to not obtain the required training, bonding, and licensing also create unfair competition for those who follow the law," Gwinn added, urging that citizens call the Contractor's State License Board at 1-800-321-CSLB or e-mail at www.cslb.ca.gov before hiring anyone to do construction work at their home or business.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim of Ngungutau Maake is requested to call the City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit at (619) 533-5600.

###



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

MEDIA RELEASE